

Order 98-5-10

Served: May 13, 1998



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 11th day of May, 1998

Essential air service at

MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

Docket OST-96-1265

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

On November 18, 1997, Great Lakes filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend service at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, effective February 16, 1998. Great Lakes provides two, one-stop round trips a day in the Mt. Vernon-Chicago market at an annual subsidy rate of \$246,919. By Order 98-1-26, January 26, 1998, we prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through March 17, 1998, and we requested proposals from interested carriers to provide replacement service. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Great Lakes' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through May 16, 1998, by Order 98-4-12.

On April 17, 1998, Great Lakes submitted a proposal, with subsidy, for another two-years at Mt. Vernon at the current service level, and states that it will soon submit an additional service/subsidy option. When we complete our review of the carrier's options, we will hold rate negotiations with the carrier. Since this case will not be completed before the end of the current 30-day hold-in period, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation for an additional 30 days, through June 15, 1998, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR Part 385.

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., to maintain essential air service at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, as set forth in Orders 96-8-23 and 97-8-14, for an additional 30-day period through June 15, 1998, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever occurs first;¹

2. We direct Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support claims for payment and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits the audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order; and

3. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayor and airport manager of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

JOHN V. COLEMAN
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov>*

¹ In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.